

# NEWS RELEASE



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For immediate release

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**Note:** Series Producer Joe Ligo is available for interviews. In addition, Feb. 15 episode photos and the series logo are available at <https://bit.ly/3Bazg7c>.

## MPT series *Maryland Farm & Harvest* visits Frederick, Garrett and Montgomery counties during February 15 episode

**OWINGS MILLS, MD** – Maryland Public Television's (MPT) popular original series [Maryland Farm & Harvest](#), in its ninth season, will feature farms and locations in Frederick, Garrett, and Montgomery counties as part of an agriculture education-themed episode at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15. Viewers can watch on MPT-HD and online at [mpt.org/livestream](http://mpt.org/livestream).

The weekly series takes viewers on a journey across the Free State, telling interesting stories about the farms, people, and technology required to sustain and grow agriculture in Maryland, the number one commercial industry in the state.

Joanne Clendining, who has earned two Emmy® awards from the National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences for her work on *Maryland Farm & Harvest*, returns as host.



With introductions filmed at [White House Nursery](#) in **Upperco in Baltimore County**, the February 15 episode features the following segments:

- **Former Teacher Creates a Business featuring Bug-Eating Plants (Frederick County).** During his long career as a high school science teacher, Michael Szesze realized one of the best ways to spark students' interest in biology was to show his collection of carnivorous plants. Other teachers began asking him how to find these plants for their classrooms and soon Michael hatched the idea to start growing and selling them. Today, [Carnivorous Plant Nursery in Smithsburg](#) ships plants worldwide to educators and plant enthusiasts. The business offers a wide variety of plants, all of which require special growing conditions. These odd organisms often are found in areas with poor soil, so they have to catch their nutrients from insects. Michael explains how he mimics these conditions in the nursery and how the plants, and his business, continue to grow.

- **Elementary School Farm (Garrett County).** Crellin Elementary School faculty members and students operate a small on-campus vegetable and livestock farm that helps supplement the curriculum for all grade levels. At the **Oakland school's [Sunshine Farm](#)**, students learn to care for animals and plants as part of this innovative program. Principal Dana McCauley explains how the farm came about and what becomes of its eggs and produce at harvest time. The seeds for this program were planted when the school earned the 2011 Intel School of Distinction Award for math education. At the national award ceremony, Crellin Elementary representatives heard about an agriculture program started by a Kansas school. The next year, volunteers helped build a farm barn and the school's program grew from there. This is an encore showing of a 2018 *Maryland Farm & Harvest* segment.
- **The Local Buy: The Farm at Our House (Montgomery County).** [Our House](#) is a residential group home that provides job skills and personal development for young men. One of those skills is learning how to farm. Marc Grossman and John Brill co-founded [The Farm at Our House](#) in 2007, which grows fresh organic produce for the surrounding community. *The Local Buy* host, Al Spoler, visits the **Brookeville** farm on a cold November day to learn more about the life lessons the farm offers. He then helps pick Brussels sprouts, and Marc shares a new way to eat the sprout greens as part of a delicious winter stew. The recipe can be found at [mpt.org/farm](http://mpt.org/farm).

Encore broadcasts are available on MPT-HD Thursdays at 11 p.m. and Sundays at 6 a.m. Each episode also airs on MPT2/Create® on Fridays at 7:30 p.m.

More than 13 million viewers have tuned in to *Maryland Farm & Harvest* since its 2013 debut. The series has traveled to nearly 400 farms, fisheries, and other agriculture-related locations during its first eight seasons, covering every Maryland county, as well as Baltimore City, Washington, D.C., and nearby Delaware.

Past episodes can be viewed at [video.mpt.tv/show/maryland-farm-harvest/](http://video.mpt.tv/show/maryland-farm-harvest/), while episode segments are available on the series' YouTube channel at [youtube.com/c/MarylandFarmHarvest/featured](http://youtube.com/c/MarylandFarmHarvest/featured). Engage with the show on social media [@MarylandFarmHarvest on Facebook](#) and [@mdfarmtv on Twitter](#).

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is MPT's co-production partner for *Maryland Farm & Harvest*. Major funding is provided by the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board.

Additional funding is provided by Maryland's Best, Rural Maryland Council, Maryland Agricultural Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation (Marbidco), a grant from the Maryland Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Program, MidAtlantic Farm Credit, the Cornell Douglas Foundation, Maryland Soybean Board, Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Wegmans Food Markets, Maryland Nursery, Landscape & Greenhouse Association, The Maryland Seafood Marketing Fund, Maryland Farm Bureau, and The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment.

Other support comes from Mar-Del Watermelon Association and Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation.

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### **About Maryland Public Television**

Maryland Public Television (MPT) is a statewide, public-supported TV network and Public Broadcasting Service member offering entertaining, educational, and inspiring content delivered by traditional broadcasting and streaming on TVs, computers, and mobile devices. A state agency, it operates under the auspices of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission. MPT creates local, regional, and national content and is a frequent winner of regional Emmy® awards. MPT's commitment to educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through instructional events

and [Thinkport.org](http://Thinkport.org). MPT's year-round community engagement activities connect viewers with resources on a wide range of topics. For more information visit [mpt.org](http://mpt.org).